

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 H-03 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-03 TRSE-00 USIA-15

NSC-07 SCI-06 OMB-01 PA-04 PRS-01 L-03 AGR-20 AID-20

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P R 211600Z MAR 74 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION GENEVA

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STATE PASS CONGRESSMEN WOLFF AND RANGEL

EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: OREP, SNAR, TU

SUBJ: TURKISH PRESS PLAY ON OPIUM POPPY ISSUE

1. TURKISH PRESS CONTINUES UNABATED HEAVY COVERAGE ON QUESTION OF LIFTING BAN WITH LEFTIST PRESS VIRULENTLY ANTI-AMERICAN IN TONE WHILE GLEEFULLY CALLING FOR INDEPENDENCE FROM U.S. PRESS ACCOUNTS OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY VARIOUS OFFICIALS ALSO SUPPORT NOTION OF TURKISH SOVEREIGNTY IN MATTER AND GENERALLY SUPPORT RESUMPTION OF PLANTATION, WHILE SOME--SUCH AS JUSTICE PARTY LEADER AND FORMER PRIMIN DEMIRAL--SOUND NOTE OF CAUTION IN MAIN-TANANCE OF GOOD RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. THERE IS NO SUPPORT OF KEEPING THE BAN FROM ANY QUARTERS. FOLLOW-ING IS SUMMARY OF PRESS REPORTING FOR MARCH 19-21 PERIOD.

2. TUESDAY MARCH 19 ALL MAJOR PAPERS FRONT-PAGED ITEM BY UPI-
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AFFILIATED LOCAL WIRE SERVICE (TURK HABERLER AJANSI) QUOTING

JUSTICE PARTY LEADER SULEYAN DEMIRAL ON HIS PARTY'S VIEWS ON THE ISSUE. ALSO GIVEN TOP PLAY ON TV'S EARLY EVENING NEWS TUESDAY, AND REPORTED ON RADIO. DEMIRAL REPORTEDLY SAID HIS PARTY HAD NEVER FAVORED COMPLETE BAN ON POPPY PLANTING; THAT PRESENT GOVERNMENT HAD PROMISED POPPY CULTIVATION "AND IT WILL KEEP ITS PROMISE" AND ADDED "WHILE DOING THIS, IT SHOULD ALSO CONSIDER THE BENEFITS AND THE COST TO THE COUNTRY...(THE GOVERNMENT) SHOULD ALSO BE SUCCESSFUL IN PROTECTING TURKEY'S OTHER BENEFITS."

3. OTHER MARCH 19 PLAY:

-SENSATIONALIST GUNAYDIN (CIRC: 350,000) CARRIED PIX OF REP. WOLFF IN AFYON INSIDE UNDER HEADING: "WE WILL START POPPY PLANTATION, "SAID CITIZENS OF AFYON TO ONE AMERICAN CONGRESSMAN."7

-MODERATE MILLIYET (255,000) QUOTED STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMEN AT FRIDAY PRESS CONFERENCE: "FOR THE SAKE OF THE INCOME OF 80 THOUSAND FAMILIES, THE TWO COUNTRIES--ONE IS 30 MILLION, THE OTHER 200 MILLION--WILL HAVE A DISPUTE." THE WRITER SAID THE VOTES OF 80 THOUSAND FAMILIES WERE IMPORTANT IN THE ELECTIONS; SUGGESTS THAT FOREIGN ORIGINATED SOLUTIONS SHOULD NOT BE READILY ACCEPTED, AND THE POPPY ISSUE SHOULD NOT BE SACRIFICED WITH THESE SOLUTIONS "WHICH SEEM APPROPRIATE AND EASY FOR OUTSIDERS."

-MODERATE LEFT CUMHURİYET (80,000), CITING TURKISH BOOK TITLED, "THE HISTORY OF NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE," CLAIMS THAT U.S. PRESSURE ON TURKEY ABOUT POPPY PLANTATION BEGAN IN THE 1903'S AND EVEN ROOSEVELT WAS INVOLVED IN THE ISSUE AFTER TURKEY'S AMBASSADOR PROTESTED THE U.S. ATTITUDE.

-SOCIALIST, ANTI-U.S. YENİ ORTAM (CIRC: 15,000) WROTE: "THE ISSUE IS WHETHER TO SAY YES OR NO TO ANOTHER OF THE DEMANDS AND PRESSURES OF IMPERIALISM. FOR THE RPP-NSP COALITION TO SAY NO TO U.S. IMPERIALISM IS EASIER THAN IT USED TO BE. THE OPIUM SUBJECT IS AN IMPORTANT TEST FOR THE NEW GOVERNMENT. TO SAY YES TO U.S. PRESSURES WOULD BE ONE OF THE BIGGEST MISTAKES OF THE RPP-NSP COALITION IN THE FIELD OF FOREIGN POLICY."

4. MARCH 20 STORIES DIFFERED FROM PAPER TO PAPER, EXCEPT MOST CARRIED UPI WASHINGTON DATELINE ITEM CITING BUDGET DIRECTOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FREDERICK MALEK AS SAYING USG WOULD SELL PART OF ITS OPIUM RESERVE DUE TO LOW PRODUCTION BY INDIA AND THAT US IS DEPENDING ON INDIA TO MEET MEDICAL DEMANDS FOR OPIUM. IN OTHER WEDNESDAY ITEMS:

-MASS CIRCULATION HURRIYET (480,000) QUOTED SECAG BUTZ "IN SPECIAL MESSAGE TO HURRIYET" IN NEW YORK DATELINE ITEM SAYING "I LEARNED OF THE SITUATION BEFORE LEAVING WASHINGTON. THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE PROBLEM WOULD BE SOLVED IF PLANTATION WOULD

BE DONE UNDER STRICT GOVERNMENT CONTROL. THE IDEAL SOLUTION TO THE ISSUE IS TO ESTABLISH STATE FARMS WITHIN THE POPPY REGION AND TO CARRY OUT CULTIVATION UNDER GOVERNMENT SUPERVISION." ASKED ABOUT ALLEGED THREATS BY US CONGRESSMEN TO CUT OFF ALL AID TO TURKEY IS PLANTATION IS RESUMED, BUTZ QUOTED AS SAYING: "THIS IS NONESSENCE, AND IT IS NOT NECESSARY. THE DECISION TO BE TAKEN ON THIS SUBJECTS CONCERNS ONLY THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE NO RIGHT TO ADVISE TURKEY, NOR TO FORCE HER." ITEM CONTINUES THAT TURKISH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL MET WITH UNDER SECRETARY SISCO ON SUBJECT. THE "AMERICAN OFFICIAL" IS QUOTED AS SAYING FURTHER THAT THE SPRING SEASON FOR PLANTING HAS PASSED, AND THAT IN PERIOD BEFORE FALL PLANTING SEASON THERE IS TIME FOR TURKEY AND US TO REACH CLEARER SOLUTION JOINTLY, AND THAT EXISTING HESITATIONS AND DOUBTS AS WELL AS THE REACTION OF HY PUBLIC OPINION CAN BE ELIMINATED DURING THIS PERIOD.

-YENI ORTAM WRITES: "ALONG WITH THE THREATS FOR CUTTING MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, IT IS CLAIMED AND RUMORED IN POLITICAL SIDE-SCENES THAT THE REASON FOR US ARMS ASSISTANCE TO (KURDISH LEADER) BARZANI IS DUE TO TENSIONS OVER THE POPPY."

-MILLIYET HAS FOLLOW-UP ON WEDNESDAY'S INTERVIEW WITH AGMIN OZAL SAYING MINAG'S PROPOSAL TO PLANT 50,000 ACRES IN FALL 1974 WAS DISCUSSED BY INTERMINISTERIAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL ON TUESDAY; THAT COUNCIL APPROVED MINAG PROPOSAL TO BUILD ALKOLOID PLANT TO PROCESS OPIUM GUM FOR DRUG INDUSTRY; AND THAT COUNCIL WAS EXPECTED TO AGAIN DISCUSS POPPY PLANTATION THURSDAY AND REACH A FINAL DECISION.
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